(b) if so, the action taken by Government to increase the allocation to tribal areas; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) (a) to (c) Central Assistance for the development of tribal and scheduled areas of the Country under Article 275(1) of the Constitution is administered by Ministry of Tribal Affairs. As per information available, annual allocation under Article 275(1) has increased from Rs. 380 crore in 2005-06 to Rs. 416 crore for the current year for the development of tribal and scheduled areas.

Withdrawal of deposits from RRBS

4225. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in the country are deprived of bulk low cost deposits in view of State Government withdrawing deposits from them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to take any corrective steps to ensure that RRBs may not face any problem due to low cost deposits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) (a) to (d) Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have been deprived of getting low cost bulk deposits, because certain State Governments consider only Natinalized Banks' as eligible institutions for placing deposits. Besides, some of the State Governments have expressed difficulty in placing Government deposits with RRBs as RRBs are not on CBS (Core Banking Solution) which enables transfer of funds quickly. Taking note of it, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised their Regional Offices to discuss the matter in their respective Empowered Committee. The Government has also advised National bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to impress upon the State Government to park their funds with RRBs.

Securing job using fake caste certificates

4226. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that a large number of people have secured jobs in the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) by submitting fake caste certificates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether on the basis of fake certificates a number of officials in the CBEC have got promotions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) (a) and (b) As per information received from field formations under CBEC, there are presently 42 cases in which there are allegations that the officer concerned secured the job by submitting fake caste certificate. In accordance with the Government instructions and judicial pronouncements on the subject, the District Authorities were requested to conduct enquiry in all the cases. Out of 42 cases, the enquiry by District Authorities is still continuing in 22 cases. Further, in 13 cases, the officers have filed court cases against the orders of the District Authorities and obtained stay. In the remaining 7 cases, after completion of enquiry by District Authorities, the disciplinary authorities under CBEC have initiated disciplinary proceedings against the concerned officers, which are at various stages of completion.

(c) and (d) As per the legal position, promotions or any other service benefit cannot be denied to an officer, till the caste certificate is proved to be false after the enquiry and the same is cancelled. Hence, it is true that some of the 42 officers referred to in (a) above have got promotions.

(e) Regarding the pending disciplinary proceedings, the concerned officials of the Department have been directed to complete the same on top priority basis in a time bound manner. Regarding the enquiries pending before the District Authorities and the case is pending before the courts (which are against the orders of the District Authorities), the matter is being followed up with the concerned State/District Autorities regularly to expedite the matter. Further, instructins have been issued to field formations to be careful in verifying the caste certificates of new recruits, so that such instances of fake caste certificates can be avoided in future.

Stock exchange for SMEs

4227. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up stock exchange for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far this would help the fund-starved SMEs in the State to raise funds for expansion and diversification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) (a) to (c) No proposal has been received by SEBI to set up stock exchange for SMEs in Orissa. Setting up a stock exchange for the SME sector will facilitate small and medium enterprises to raise funds for their business needs.

Increase in food prices

4228. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: